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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of

Hans Johann HORN

APR 22 2002

Appln. No.: 10/019,422

Group Art Unit: 3722.

Filed: December 20, 2001

For: RING BINDER MECHANISM

Attorney Docket No.: 3827.083

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application which were cited by the Examiner in the corresponding PCT Application (PCT/EP01/04150) as "A" category references and documents cited by the Examiner in the corresponding German Application No. 100 20 2004. Copies of the documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, and copies of the search reports, are provided herewith.

1. U.S. Patent No. 4,130,368
2. U.S. Patent No. 4,566,817
3. U.S. Patent No. 3,993,374
4. U.S. Patent No. 1,996,463
5. U.S. Patent No. 1,163,179
6. U.S. Patent No. 1,787,957
7. U.S. Patent No. 974,831
8. Great Britain Patent No. 22 92 343 A

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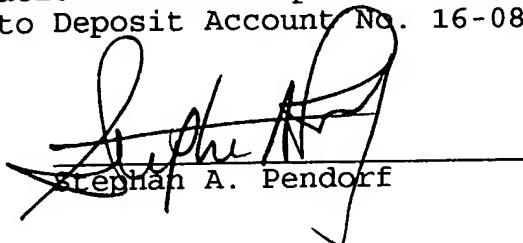
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ATTY DOCK: 3827.083

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO-1449, including three documents, for U.S. Application No. 10/019,422 filed December 20, 2001, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 15, 2002.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.



~~Stephan A. Pendorf~~



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